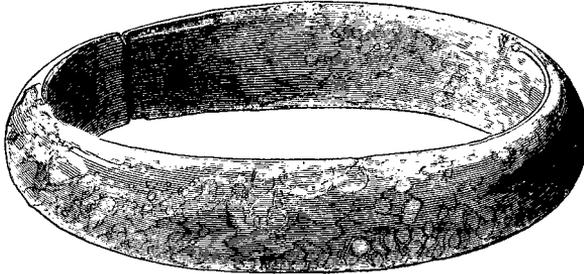


II.

NOTE REGARDING TWO BRONZE RINGS, RECENTLY DUG UP NEAR STOBO CASTLE, PEEBLESSHIRE, THE SEAT OF SIR G. GRAHAM MONTGOMERY, BART., M.P. BY GEORGE SETON, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

The two curious Rings, which are now exhibited to the Society, and one of which is figured in the woodcut through the kindness of Sir Graham Montgomery ; were lately discovered in the immediate neighbourhood of Stobo Castle, while a cutting was being made for a new road. They were found lying, side by side, on the top of a large boulder-stone, a flat stone being placed as a cover immediately above them. On the boulder-stone being removed, a collection of

small stones was exposed to view in the centre of the space, which had apparently been subjected to the action of fire. Portions of white calcined matter having the appearance of burnt bone, adhered to these small stones—specimens



of which are also exhibited. The depth of the cutting was from two to three feet; and all around the spot, a number of stones (both large and small) were collected. These, however, were not arranged in any particular order. A small piece of metal, of the same nature as the Rings, was found about ten yards distant, among some loose stones.

In a communication which I have received from Sir Graham Montgomery, he refers to the *remarkable smoothness* of the green coating by which the Rings are encircled, as bearing a greater resemblance to some sort of enamel than to an incrustation of verdigris or other natural production, the latter of which, after a conversation with some of the members of the Society, I had suggested it might be.

The Rings consist of convex bands or bars of bronze, bent into a circular form,—the extremities, which taper rather suddenly, being left disunited. Their weight amounts to six, and six and a half ounces, respectively—the diameter of each (inside measurement) being about two and a half inches, while the greatest thickness of the bars is nearly three-eighths of an inch. Our museum contains very interesting examples of bronze rings, none of which, however, so far as I have been able to discover, are precisely similar in form to those now exhibited. I presume that these interesting relics will be regarded as specimens of the bronze armillæ or bracelets, which are pretty fully described in the sixth chapter of the Second Part of the “Prehistoric Annals of Scotland.”¹ Among other instances, Dr Wilson refers to a number of peculiar bronze rings,

¹ Wilson's Annals, p. 309.]

“varying in size from about two inches to two-thirds of an inch in diameter,” which were discovered, in the year 1835, among a deposit of half-burnt bones and charcoal, in a large tumulus popularly known as the “Fairy Hillock,” near the summit of Carmylie Hill, Forfarshire.¹ He also quotes the unfortunately meagre account of the discovery of (bronze?) bracelets on the arms of a male skeleton found in a mound, by the side of the Tweed, in the parish of Glenholm, Peeblesshire.²

I may state, in conclusion, that in bringing these particulars before the notice of the Society, my object was not to express any opinion as to the character of the Rings in question, but for the purpose of ascertaining the views of those gentlemen who have devoted their attention to the study of similar relics.

[These rings or armlets had apparently, as valued ornaments, been laid in the tomb beside the ashes of their late proprietor.—*Ed.*]